

MARY L. LIVERS, Ph.D., MSW, Deputy Secretary

September 2, 2009

## Dear Parents:

With the approaching flu season, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about precautions you and your family can take to stay safe from the flu.

The first defense is to take everyday precautions,

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water long enough to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice, especially after you cough, sneeze, OR use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you are sick.

I want to assure you that your child's physical health is a priority and we are taking all necessary precautions to keep your son/daughter safe from the flu. You can be a big part of our efforts to make sure all youth are kept safe from the flu.

If you or other family members are experiencing flu like symptoms, including fever, coughing, sore throat, achy feeling or fatigue, runny or stuffy nose, we ask that you postpone your visit to see your child until you (or the family member experiencing these symptoms) are feeling better and no longer have these symptoms.

If you come to visit your child you may be asked how you are feeling the day you visit. If we feel you are experiencing flu like symptoms, we reserve the right to deny you access into the facility for the public health and safety of our youth.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's case manager, who will be happy to answer them. Information about OJJ's medical precaution in response to the flu within our facility is posted on our website, <a href="https://www.ojj.la.gov">www.ojj.la.gov</a>.

I want to thank you for working with us to make sure we all stay healthy during this upcoming flu season.

Sincerely,

Deputy Secretary